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Reinata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax 202-616-9937
microsoft.atr@usdoc.gov

Dear Ms. Hesse:

It is time to bring an end to the too-long and too-expensive Microsoft antitrust case. In November 2001, our Attorney General here in North Carolina, Roy Cooper, agreed to the settlement that has been proposed. I hope that the federal judge will now approve the settlement also.

It is difficult for a layperson such as myself to understand what misdeeds Microsoft has committed. It appears to me and my three teenage, computer-savvy children, that Microsoft has made information technology more accessible, more usable and more affordable. No consumer harm is apparent to me. I was under the impression that the purpose of antitrust laws is to protect consumers, not competitors.

Whatever Microsoft's misdeeds, however, I believe the proposed settlement offers more than enough protection in the future. I have read that Microsoft will be required – and has agreed – to abide by a strict set of rules and regulations governing its relationships with computer maker and software providers. An independent committee will oversee the company's behavior. More information about Microsoft's products and practices will be made public – and made available to its competitors.

Enough is enough. It is time to accept a settlement that appears to be fair and reasonable to both sides in this matter. Put my name down as one citizen who thinks it is time to take all possible steps to returning everyone's attention to restoring the strength of our nation's economy, rather than bleeding an important industry dry in the courtroom.

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



F. Michael Davis
President